

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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70

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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC 731
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0258

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: ESTIMATED ELECTION RESULTS IN QUEBEC

MONTREAL GAZETTE COLUMNIST, IAN MACDONALD, TODAY REPORTED QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY RECENTLY COMPLETED DETAILED OPINION POLL THROUGHOUT PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO MACDONALD S SOURCE, POLL INDICATES LIBERALS WOULD LOSE SOME 27 SEATS IN AN ELECTION HELD THIS FALL. DESPITE EVIDENT HIGH STATE OF LIBERAL READINESS FOR ELECTION CAMPAIGN, SOME PARTY SOURCE CLAIM BOURASSA HAS STILL NOT MADE FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER HOLD ELECTION IN NOVEMBER.

COMMENT: NOT CLEAR WHETHER MACDONALD WAS REFERRING TO TOTAL LOSS OF 27 SEATS BY LIBERALS OR WHETHER ESTIMATED LOSSES ARE IN ADDITION TO TWELVE SEATS NOW HELD BY NON-LIBERALS, LATTER HAS SYMETRY OF BEING IN ACCORD WITH WIDESPREAD ESTIMATES OF LIKELY OUTCOME GIVING LIBERALS ABOUT 70 SEATS, PARTI QUEBECOIS 30 AND SPLINTER PARTIES 10 IN NEXT ASSEMBLY. IF RESULT OF POLL WAS INDEED AS REPORTED BOURASSA IS LIKELY BE ENCOURAGED BY IT TO CALL ELECTION.
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